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SUBJECT: INDUSTRIAL HIGHWAY OIL SPILL, GARY, LAKE COUNTY, IN**POLREP: POLREP 4****RESPONSE AUTHORITY: OPA****NPL STATUS: NON-NPL****START DATE: 06/23/92****1. SITUATION:**

ON JUNE 23, 1992, THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (U.S. EPA), AND ITS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM (TAT) CONTRACTOR RESPONDED TO A REPORT BY GARY AIR & LAND POLLUTION CONTROL (GALPC) OF AN OIL SPILL ALONG A DITCH BANK BORDERING THE GARY REGIONAL AIRPORT (GRA) ALONG INDUSTRIAL HIGHWAY IN GARY, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA. AN OIL SHEEN WAS OBSERVED ON THE WATERWAY (DITCH) SURFACE AND A THICK OIL LAYER WAS NOTICED ALONG THE DITCH BANKS. THE WATERWAY LEADS DOWNSTREAM AND EVENTUALLY DISCHARGES TO THE GRAND CALUMET RIVER JUST SOUTH OF THE AIRPORT. TAT COLLECTED TWO SAMPLES OF THE OIL PHASE FROM THE DITCH WATERWAY AND PLACED A CONTAINMENT BOOM ON THE WATERWAY TO PREVENT FURTHER MIGRATION OF THE OIL DOWNSTREAM. THE SAMPLES WERE ANALYZED FOR PCBs AND OIL AND GREASE. GRA AND GALPC OFFICIALS ALSO ASSISTED WITH RESPONSE EFFORTS. INITIAL RESPONSE EFFORTS TO LOCATE THE SPILL WERE UNSUCCESSFUL AND WORK WAS SUSPENDED UNTIL THE SAMPLE RESULTS WERE RECEIVED. THE U.S. EPA NOTIFIED THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD (USCG) TO ACTIVATE THE OIL POLLUTION ACT (OPA) FUND TO CONDUCT A CLEAN-UP OF THE SPILL.

2. ACTION TAKEN:**AT THE REQUEST OF THE U.S. EPA ON-SCENE COORDINATOR (OSC), THE**

RESPONSE TEAM OF U.S. EPA, TAT, GRA, GALPC, AND THE OPA CLEANUP CONTRACTOR CONTINUED SITE CLEAN-UP EFFORTS. ON AUGUST 25, WORK CREWS CONDUCTED ROUTINE MAINTENANCE OF THE DITCHES, INCLUDING CHANGING OUT OF THE OIL-SOAKED ABSORBENT BOOMS AND PADS.

ON SEPTEMBER 1 AND 2, THE OPA CONTRACTOR THOROUGHLY MIXED FLY ASH (LIME) INTO THE LINED SOIL PILE TO TREAT THE HIGH LEVELS OF REACTIVE SULFIDES FOUND EARLIER IN A SAMPLE FROM THE CONTAMINATED SOIL. ON SEPTEMBER 3, THE CREW CHANGED OUT USED BOOM AND PADS ON THE EAST DITCH WATERWAY AND COMPLETED LEVELING THE FORMER SOIL PILE STAGING AREA NEXT TO AIRPORT RUNWAY. ON SEPTEMBER 4, THE OPA CONTRACTOR BEGAN TO EXCAVATE FURTHER ALONG THE WEST TRENCHWAY TO INTERCEPT OIL MIGRATING ACROSS GRA PROPERTY TO THE EAST DITCH WATERWAY.

NO APPARENT SPILL SOURCE WAS FOUND, BUT VISUAL EVIDENCE ALONG A OIL-STAINED RAVINE IN THE WEST DITCH INDICATED THE OIL MAY HAVE MIGRATED UNDERGROUND FROM A NEARBY U.S. EPA SUPERFUND SITE.

AFTER RECEIVING DISPOSAL APPROVAL, FINAL DISPOSAL OF THE OIL-CONTAMINATED SOIL AND DEBRIS WAS COMPLETED FROM SEPTEMBER 9 THROUGH 11. A TOTAL OF 91 LOADS (1365 CUBIC YARDS) OF SOIL AND DEBRIS WERE LOADED ONTO DUMP TRUCKS USING A FRONT-END LOADER AND TRANSPORTED TO THE CHEMICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT'S (CWM) CID LANDFILL FACILITY IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE OPA CONTRACTOR COMPLETED EXCAVATION OF THE WEST DITCH, EXTENDING THE DITCH APPROXIMATELY 100 FEET NORTH AND REMOVING THE OIL-CONTAMINATED SOIL ALONG WITH THE OTHER WASTES AND CONDUCTED ROUTINE REPLACEMENT OF BOOM AND PADS ON THE WATERWAYS.

3. FUTURE ACTIONS:

- CONTAIN ANY OIL ON WATERWAYS USING SORBENT BOOMS AND PADS TO PREVENT FURTHER MIGRATION.
- ARRANGE DISPOSAL FOR OIL-CONTAMINATED ABSORBENT BOOM AND PADS.
- CONDUCT FURTHER ROUTINE INSPECTIONS OF THE SPILL AREA.
- INVESTIGATE, IDENTIFY, AND MITIGATE THE SPILL SOURCE.

4. ESTIMATED COSTS (AS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 1992)

	<u>CEILING</u>	<u>EST. COSTS</u>	<u>EST. AMOUNT REMAINING</u>
OPA CLEANUP CONTRACTOR	\$150,000.00	\$111,291.70	\$ 38,708.30*

NOTE: PROJECT COSTS WILL BE UPDATED ONCE FINAL CONTRACTOR BILLING HAS BEEN RECEIVED.

* APPROXIMATELY \$62,000.00 IN DISPOSAL COSTS IS PENDING.